



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - August 28, 2003

- ***In the West***, a few showers continue in the ***Four Corners region***, while warm, dry weather prevails elsewhere. Although recent ***Western*** showers have locally benefited rangelands and eased irrigation demands, long-term water-supply concerns persist in the ***Southwest*** and ***Intermountain West***.
- ***On the Plains***, showers and thunderstorms are providing drought relief to pastures and immature summer crops in ***Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska***, while hot, dry weather persists across ***southern portions of the region***. Farther north, a summer-long heat wave is ending on the ***northern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers and thunderstorms associated with the approach of a strong cold front are overspreading ***western parts of the region***, aiding immature, drought-stressed corn and soybeans. Today is expected to be the last day of stressful heat (95 degrees F or greater) across ***Illinois, Missouri, and southern Iowa***, as the cold front's passage will end the western Corn Belt's two-week heat wave.
- ***In the South***, warm weather favors summer crop maturation, but locally heavy showers are slowing harvesting operations and other late-summer fieldwork.

Outlook: Showers and thunderstorms will persist in the warm, humid airmass across the ***southeastern quarter of the U.S.***, while dry, cool weather will overspread the ***Northeast***. Meanwhile, a strong, slow-moving cold front will generate periods of heavy rain and locally severe thunderstorms across the ***central and southern Plains and the Midwest***. Cool air will trail the front across ***northern portions of the Rockies and Plains***, reaching the ***central and southern Plains and Corn Belt*** by week's end. Mostly dry weather will prevail ***west of the Rockies***, although scattered monsoon showers will linger in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for September 2-6 calls for below-normal temperatures to continue from the ***central and southern Plains to the Appalachians***. However, warmer-than-normal weather will return to the ***northern High Plains*** and prevail across much of the ***West***. Above-normal rainfall is likely throughout the ***Atlantic Coast States***, while—regarding drought areas—the greatest likelihood for significant rainfall is expected across the ***southern Plains*** and the ***Southwest***. In contrast, drier-than-normal weather is forecast across the ***Northwest, northern portions of the Rockies and Plains***, and the ***western Corn Belt***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>